



Annual Report Newsletter November 2014

Chairman's Report for Year Ending March 2014

Once again, MAA has concluded an amazing year of change and challenge.

We have received an enormous quantity of donated stock, from an individual's single small carton, to 41 pallets of goods, from our trusted supplier, EBOS. We have had to vacate three of our five areas in Building 17 at Greenlane Clinical Centre, but the Auckland District Health Board have given us extra rooms in Building 16. We have purchased a Toyota van almost totally funded by donations and we planned a huge fund-raising dinner and dance.

But still we rely on a wonderful team of volunteers who come together week by week, to sort and store our goods. Our regular operation continues to be capably run by our Store Manager, Dr Mary Ponifasio. We are regularly supported by donations of goods from medical suppliers, clinics, hospitals and pharmacies. We are lead by an eclectic team of professionals, our Executive, who meet throughout the year, to monitor MAA's activities and to plan ahead. We are loosely working with MAA Christchurch as they develop their own form and future.

We are thankful that we have a good reputation and have supporters in unexpected places, like the Manager of a Mitre 10 MEGA in Henderson, who helped us store the large stock donation from EBOS.

And finally we still regularly send goods to an amazing range of recipient countries, from the Pacific, to Asia and Africa and beyond.

Having been forced by the ADHB to vacate the majority of our rooms (the Plant Room area), we

have had to carry much stock the 300m to the basement of Building 16. With the generous help of an out of town supporter who made an extensive set of shelving, we have managed to relocate a large percentage of our goods into this old basement laboratory suite. It is secure and dry, but off-site and down two small flights of steps.

The purchasing of a second hand Toyota van has been a fantastic help in moving quantities of stock that would have needed three or four car-loads in the past, thereby reducing wear and tear on private vehicles.

Our Treasurer comments that unless we have a marked increase of funds we might manage to last 12 months. To that end, we planned a major fund-raising dinner, dance and entertainment. This happened in the current financial year and proved to be a huge success. We thank many friends and supporters of MAA for making this event the great evening that it was.

MAA Christchurch is now functioning and we regularly receive goods from them, for us to send overseas. Their keen team of enthusiastic workers, mostly pharmacists, are trying to grow this work in the south.

I would like to pay tribute to our retiring Treasurer, Dr David Morris. David, a surgeon, by his own admission is not an accountant but regularly and faithfully recorded the cash processes of MAA for many years. David, we thank you for your reliable and accurate data recording.

Jessica Popham, who stepped into the Secretary role a year ago is having to resign from the position for medical reasons. Thank you too, Jessica.

Thank you to everyone, who has any role in helping, and supporting Medical Aid Abroad.

Murray Kerr
Chairman



Store Annual Report 2013/2014

The MAA store supplies have increased tremendously in 2014 due to the kindness of many organisations and individuals that trust MAA to deliver these needed medical supplies overseas to the people and health workers who need this.

We have now opened up three main store areas

around Auckland to store these supplies awaiting movement into containers and outgoing boxes. In 2014, we have exceeded 1000 cartons of supplies but this does not include the number of bulk items like wheelchairs and hospital beds. Therefore, more supplies are documented and supplied without being boxed in cartons.

The different store areas have created the need for more volunteers to help us sort the supplies coming in and moving out. We have just managed to do that this year with an average of 8 workers volunteering every Wednesday from 9.30am to 1.30pm and would love to have more people coming in to help so that work can be effectively done in the three separate store areas.

The MAA van bought for transporting of medical supplies has been beneficial in multiple ways especially when moving supplies to the three different store areas and picking up large volumes of supplies in one load. What is urgently needed is to have cheap and affordable shipping and freight link to the various countries needing these supplies. When there is an urgent need for supplies to be sent, like a viral epidemic, it would be excellent to have an MAA shipping link which could be used through charitable shipping companies for supplies to go abroad instead of being stored for a long time or thrown away due to lack of storage space.

Nevertheless, MAA has managed to send shipping container loads of supplies to Solomon Is, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and North Korea. We are currently working on a huge supply list to stock up Marine Reach's new ship Pacific Hope which sails next year.

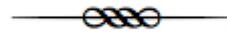
In 2014, the MAA work was done in conjunction with moves to transport shelving and supplies to the new store locations from the old store space that needed to be emptied. We are thankful and appreciate the work of a handful of people, not necessarily from MAA, for the relocation of supplies and shelving to the new store area. MAA has maintained the same old store area for collection of supplies.

MAA stores also appreciate those who have given cash donations to help us to effectively do our work. The MAA fundraising night on August 8 2014 was successful in providing information on the work we do. It was also a great occasion to raise our profile and connect with other

organisations and volunteers. We are thankful also for the funds raised to help us in our operating costs of packaging and documentation and also for the vehicle costs for the collection and delivery of medical supplies.

It is in the knowledge that the work of MAA benefits those less fortunate than us in obtaining needed medical supplies, and that from our abundance in NZ, we can share what we have by reaching to the sick through health workers, individuals, volunteers, medical students and many charitable organisations on their own medical missions. For me, it is indeed a blessing to do this work.

Dr Mary Ponifasio
Store Manager



Treasurers Note

Medical Aid Abroad accounts for the financial year ending end March 2014 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

General Comments:

MAA runs at a considerable loss, which can be expected as we become busier, due to the growing requests for medical aid supplies. However the Executive has considered various ways of fund raising and a successful Dinner to that end was carried out during this present financial year.

We need a more frequent income stream and support from our supporters, so I hope you can kindly help:

Several have set up a direct debit with their banks and that has been very valuable, providing a small but regular monthly donation.

Internet banking is easy for a one-off donation, our ANZ account number is 06 0287 0232094 00 Please enter your name and postal address in the Reference field, so that we can track your donation,

Alternatively send a cheque with address on back, and mail to:

Medical Aid Abroad
PO Box 26 336
Epsom, Auckland 1344

We are registered with the Charities Commission (Reg. No. CC20916), so all donations over \$5 are tax deductible and will be receipted.

Thank you for your interest in the work of MAA.

David Morris
Treasurer

*Letters of Thanks From Those
Receiving MAA Goods*

Hello Mary

The box you packed 26th September for Taveuni Rotary Club for Vurevure Village dispensary was delivered yesterday. The village health worker/nurse was delighted with the contents and was extremely grateful. The village leader was also very appreciative of your contribution. The contents of this box are ideal for remote communities and a major help to the health workers.

Thanks to all who made it possible.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Amos

Rotary Club of Taveuni Island

Dear Mary,

Sally and I would like to thank you for the medical supplies for the Rural Health Clinic of Takwa in the Solomon Islands.

You have a wonderful team there and you yourself are a little gem and were just so welcoming in a very relaxed, friendly and Melanesian way. Thank you for making our loading of the van so easy, with all the help we received.

I am also writing to ask your treasurer/secretary to send us your bank account number so that we can lodge a donation in the Medical Aid Abroad account.

With our love and best wishes.

Sally and Peter Hundleby

Trustees

Solomon Outreach Society

A Story in Photos

Two of our wonderful volunteers in the MAA pharmacy, with our stock of drugs all waiting to begin their journey.



MAA Goods on their way! Sometimes travelling by unusual means...



MAA goods in use, finally in the right place.

